

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement of Franklin County, Ohio Commissioner Paula Brooks Regarding the Ebola Virus

It is truly concerning that the situation with the Ebola virus has arisen in the United States, and particularly now in Ohio. Of course we have great concerns and sympathy for the loss of life and the impact of this illness on people both here and abroad. I want to assure families and neighbors whom I represent as your Franklin County, Ohio Commissioner that I am doing my utmost to stay updated by our local law enforcement, including our Franklin County Sheriff, and by our local health departments, including our Franklin County Health Department, along with other experts here like the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency and the many fantastic healthcare practitioners and facilities with whom I have worked over the years. Additionally, we are staying abreast daily with state and national developments to ensure the 1.3 million people in our county are prepared and can be as safe as possible in this situation. While none of us have all the answers, I am working very hard to stay on top of this situation. We ask for your help, as well, in staying alert and informed.

I am happy to see that the public and private sectors are collaborating, reviewing the other situations that have arisen, here in Ohio, in Texas, and abroad. Ohio law provides for local and state Health Authorities to be the “first responders” in cases of communicable disease such as Ebola. The Franklin County Sheriff, Columbus, and suburban police and fire are all aware of their front line role. Even the Franklin County Probate Court is part of a statutory mandated process on how a quarantine will be handled if the Columbus area must do so. I urge that you get more information regarding the specific protocols these brave health care first responders are following. Review what your family might need to know, and what you can do to help be prepared. Please contact these local experts at www.myfcph.org or (614) 525-3097, the Sheriff can be contacted at www.sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov, and the Ohio Department of Health can be reached at 1-866-800-1404.

Thank you for your attention and watchful patience. Working together for all of our families will be best for Columbus and all of central Ohio.

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